

Effective Youth Ministry Press FREE SAMPLE

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Regards,

Effective Youth Ministry Press Team

www.effectiveyouthministry.com

starting out

Ken Moser

EFFECTIVE
YOUTH MINISTRY
PRESS



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**all proceeds from the sale of this material
goes straight back into youth ministry**

starting out: introduction

Welcome to Starting Out!

Being a Christian is a tremendous thing. We have a God who forgives our sins and loves us! This is great news.

Over the next six weeks you will be going on a journey that will cover a lot of ground. You will explore a number of great things that the Bible teaches about starting out in the Christian life:

- » You will see that God shows his love for us by sending Jesus to die on the cross.
- » You will examine what it means to live by faith in God.
- » You will find out how you can be sure that you are going to heaven.
- » You will look at what the Bible says about dealing with sin in your life.
- » You will discuss how to stay a Christian for your whole life.

Being a Christian is an exciting road to travel. My hope and prayer is that by the end of this series of studies you will be a strong (or stronger!) follower of Jesus.

Enjoy the next six weeks!

Ken Moser

starting out: becoming friends With god

FOR god so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

let's get started
let's get started

If someone asked you, "How do you get to know God?" What would you say? (Circle your answer)

Don't really know

Go sit in the forest

Carve a statue of God and bow down to it

Ask your grandmother

Read the Bible

Get on your knees and crawl to the nearest church

Try to do good things to please him

Ask for forgiveness

Something else _____

going deeper
going deeper

God loves us! Read John 3:16-18.

What did God do for us? (v.16-17)

What must our response be? (v.18)

Go to Jesus to get eternal life! Read John 3:36.

What happens if we don't care what God did for us?

Have you ever heard this message before? When? How did you respond?

What are the responses some people make to Jesus? (Circle your answer)

» Jesus, who's he? » A good guy, but who cares!

» I don't want to hear about Jesus! » I'll think about it later!

» I'm not ready to change my life! » Believe and have life!

» God loves me regardless of whether I believe in Jesus or not!

» I'd follow him anywhere! » Other _____

What does John 3 say about these responses?

Jesus tells us that the correct response to what God has done is to "repent" in order to enter God's Kingdom. Read Mark 1:14-16.

Do you know what the Kingdom of God is? (Who is the King? Who are the subjects?)

What does it mean to repent? (✓ your answer)

- ☐ To pent again!
- ☐ To cover something with more paint
- ☐ To stop doing something
- ☐ To stop, turn around and go in the opposite direction
- ☐ To say 'sorry'
- ☐ Hmm, don't know

What is the connection between repentance and having a relationship with God?

Why is it so necessary?

If someone asked you, "Why do we need to repent of sin?" do you think you could answer them?

brainwork

Hey, aren't some people "good enough to go to heaven"? This is a common question as not all people appear to be totally evil. It seems unfair that God doesn't let some people into heaven based on being "good". Read Romans 3:10-18.

How do you feel when you read this list?

Is there anyone who hasn't sinned (see v10-12)?

What do v. 13-17 tell us about human nature?

What is lacking in all people according to v. 18?

How do you think God feels about the fact that everybody is a sinner and has "turned their back" on him?

If there is time, read Romans 5:6-8.

What is God's solution to our not being 'good enough' to go to heaven?



getting active

getting active

Helping each other

How can this group help each other to understand and respond to God's love?

Is there anything that we must do differently this week in light of our study today?

let's pray

• Thank God for showing us that he loves us by sending Jesus to die for us.

- Pray that each person in this group will know that God loves them.
- Pray that we will never take God's love for granted.
- Pray for friends who don't know God's love.
- *Other things we can pray for*

FOR YOUR EYES ONLY:
The week ahead

10

stay tuned

Next week we will learn about what it means to have faith in God!

FOR YOUR EYES ONLY: The Week Ahead

1. Have you turned from a life of sin to a relationship with God?

It may be that after this study you now realize that you need to repent of your sins and come into God's Kingdom. If you want to turn and make God the king of your life, there are a few simple things you must do.

1. It is very important that you repent of your sins. This means admitting that you have done wrong, asking for forgiveness and turning away from a life without God.
2. Here is a simple prayer you can pray: "Dear God, I am sorry for living a life apart from you. I am sorry for all the things I have done that are wrong. Thank you for loving the world so much that you sent your one and only Son. I thank you for his death on the cross for me. I want to now live as a child of yours. Please help me to do this as long as I live. Amen."
3. If you do this, God will forgive you completely. Jesus died on the cross for this very reason!
4. After you have prayed this prayer, you should tell your Bible study leader. He or she will be really glad to hear this!
5. It would also be helpful to read the box below (The Good News is really good!) and read the Bible verses. These verses drive the point home about why the death of Jesus on the cross is so important.
6. If you pray this prayer, make sure you keep going to Bible study to learn more about Jesus and how to live the Christian life. Being a Christian isn't simply praying a prayer of forgiveness and then doing what you'd like. Following Jesus must have a big impact on your life. Reading your Bible with other Christians will help you to understand what it means to follow Jesus each day.

2. Personal Bible Reading

This week, try to spend some time reading the Bible. You can do one of two things: either read the sections from the Bible dealing with the good news of the gospel (you'll find these in the box at the bottom of this study) or begin to read the gospel of Mark. This is a great book about Jesus and what he's done for us. See if you can read chapters 1-4 this week.

my weekly Bible reading plan!

In the gospel of Mark I read (place a ✓ when you have read it!)

Chapter 1 ☐ Chapter 2 ☐ Chapter 3 ☐ Chapter 4 ☐

Hot tips for those who are just starting out and have never read the Bible!

The Bible is a great book. In fact, it is really a collection of books (66 in all). There are two main sections to the Bible: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament was written before Jesus, the New Testament was written after him. It will take you a lifetime to get to know the Bible really well, so be patient. Try and take one section of it (for example, the book of Mark) and spend some time getting to know it well. Read it a few times. Make sure you ask God to help you to understand it each time you read. Keep a notepad handy and write down any questions you have. You can ask these questions to your Bible study leader or your minister when you see him/her. Have fun!

3. Memory Verse

A great way to get to know what the Bible teaches is to memorize Bible verses. Can you learn the memory verse at the top of the study (John 3:16)? Give it a try this week.

4. Prayer

Spend some time each day thanking God for all the good things He has done for you. Make sure to thank Him for the "good news". That is, the fact that Jesus has died on the cross to pay the price for your sins. Pray for any friends or family that don't know Jesus yet. One simple way is to make two lists: things to thank God for and things to ask God to help you with. Make a list of things under the headings below and spend some time this week in prayer.

Things that I can thank God for: _____

Things that I need to ask God to help me with: _____

The Good News is really good!

The clear teaching of the New Testament is that we were like "sheep going the wrong direction". However, Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for this and to lead us back to God. This is good news! (This good news is often called the "gospel".) There are a number of Bible verses that tell us about the gospel. Here are some for you to read and think about. As you do, you will soon realize why the good news is so good!

Mark 10:45 John 3:16 & 3:36 Romans 5:6-8 & 6:23
Colossians 1:21-23; 2:13-15 2 Timothy 1:15 Titus 3:3-8